

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 17-46 and 48.

1. (Currently Amended) A prosthetic intervertebral disc comprising:

top and bottom endplates, said endplates comprising an interface element adapted to interface with a vertebral body fixation element; and

a fibrous compressible element positioned between said top and bottom endplates, wherein said compressible element has a configuration that includes an annular region and a nuclear region;

wherein said top and bottom end plates are held together by at least one fiber wound around at least one region of said top end plate and at least one region of said bottom end plate.

2. (Currently Amended) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 1, wherein said top and bottom endplates comprise mating elements ~~surfaces~~ for interfacing with upper and lower vertebral body fixation elements.

3. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 1, wherein said top and bottom endplates further comprise integrated upper and lower vertebral body fixation elements.

4. (Currently Amended) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 1, wherein said top and bottom endplates each comprise a plurality of peripheral openings ~~slots~~ through which one or more fibers of said fibrous compressible element pass through to attach ~~hold~~ said top and bottom end plates to said fibrous compressible element ~~hold together~~.

5. (Original) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 4, wherein said fibrous compressible element comprises a fibrous component that is limited to said annular region.
6. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 4, wherein said fibrous compressible element comprises a fibrous component that extends into at least a portion of said nuclear region.
7. (Currently Amended) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 4, wherein said endplates have planar surfaces and wherein said fibrous compressible element comprises a fiber winding pattern that includes at least a component which is oblique with respect to the planar surfaces of the top and bottom plates.
8. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 7, wherein said fiber winding pattern further includes a component that is horizontal or vertical with respect to the planar surfaces of the top and bottom plates.
9. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 7, wherein said fibrous compressible element further comprises a three-dimensional woven fabric component.
10. (Currently Amended) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 1, wherein said fibrous compressible element is combined with ~~further comprises~~ at least one polymeric component.
11. (Withdrawn) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 10, wherein said at

least one polymeric component is impregnated with fibers of said fibrous compressible element.

12. (Currently Amended) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 10, wherein ~~said at least one polymeric component is not impregnated with the~~ fibers of said fibrous compressible element are not impregnated with a polymeric component.

13. (Original) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 10, wherein said at least one polymeric component is present in said nucleus region.

14. (Original) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 10, wherein said at least one polymeric component is present in said annular region.

15. (Original) The prosthetic intervertebral disc according to Claim 10, wherein said disc comprises at least two different polymeric components.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for replacing an intervertebral disc with a prosthetic intervertebral disc, said system comprising:

(a) a prosthetic intervertebral disc comprising:

(i) top and bottom endplates; and

(ii) a fibrous compressible element positioned between said top and bottom endplates, wherein said compressible element has a configuration that includes an annular region and a nuclear region;

wherein said top and bottom end plates are held together by at least one fiber wound

around at least one region of said top end plate and at least one region of said bottom end

plate; and

- (b) ~~at least one of:~~ (i) upper and lower vertebral body fixation elements that mate respectively with said top and bottom endplates; and
- (ii) ~~a disc delivery device.~~

17-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) A method for replacing a intervertebral disc with a prosthetic intervertebral disc, said method comprising:

- (a) ~~removing an intervertebral disc from a subject to produce a void disc space; and~~
- (b) ~~implanting into said void disc space~~ created by removing an intervertebral disc a prosthetic intervertebral disc comprising:
- (i) top and bottom endplates; and
- (ii) a fibrous compressible element positioned between said top and bottom endplates, wherein said compressible element has a configuration that includes an annular region and a nuclear region;
- wherein said top and bottom end plates are held together by at least one fiber wound around at least one region of said top end plate and at least one region of said bottom end plate; and
- (b) attaching said prosthetic intervertebral disc to the vertebra above and below said void disc space.

48. (Cancelled)